

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA**

**Cheryl Dean Riley**  
Clerk of Court

**OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF COURT  
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**Michelle Widmer-Eby**  
Chief Deputy Clerk

September 29, 2021

Via CM/ECF  
William L. Dixon  
c/o George R. Farneth, II  
The Farneth Law Group, LLC  
845 Charles Street  
Wellsburg, WV 26070

Via CM/ECF  
Nationwide Insurance Company of America  
c/o Ashley Hardesty Odell  
Bowles, Rice, LLP - Morgantown  
125 Granville Square  
Suite 400  
Morgantown, WV 26501

In Re: William L. Dixon v. Nationwide Insurance Company of America, et al.  
Civil Action No. 3:20-cv-116

Dear Mr. Dixon and Nationwide Insurance Company of America,

I have been contacted by Chief Judge, Gina M. Groh, who presided over the above-mentioned case. Judge Groh informed me that it has been brought to her attention that while she presided over the case, her husband owned stock in Nationwide. Her husband's ownership of stock neither affected nor impacted her decisions in this case, which was terminated after settlement upon entry of an Agreed Final Dismissal Order with no substantive orders issued by Judge Groh. However, her husband's stock ownership would have required recusal under the Code of Conduct for United States Judges, and thus, Judge Groh directed that I notify the parties of the conflict.

500 West Pike Street, Room 301  
Clarksburg, WV 26302  
(304) 622-8513

P.O. Box 1518  
Elkins, WV 26241  
(304) 636-1445

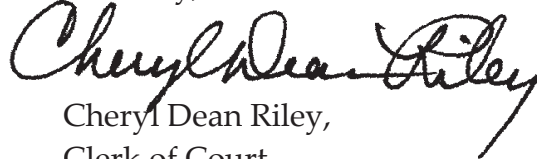
217 W. King Street, Room 102  
Martinsburg, WV 25401  
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Advisory Opinion 71, from the Judicial Conference Codes of Conduct Committee, provides the following guidance for addressing disqualification that is not discovered until after a judge has participated in a case:

[A] judge should disclose to the parties the facts bearing on disqualification as soon as those facts are learned, even though that may occur after entry of the decision. The parties may then determine what relief they may seek and a court (without the disqualified judge) will decide the legal consequence, if any, arising from the participation of the disqualified judge in the entered decision.

Although Advisory Opinion 71 contemplated disqualification after a Court of Appeals oral argument, the Committee explained “[s]imilar considerations would apply when a judgment was entered in a district court by a judge and it is later learned that the judge was disqualified.” With Advisory Opinion 71 in mind, you are invited to respond to Judge Groh’s disclosure of a conflict in this case. Should you wish to respond, please submit your response in writing by filing it on the docket of this case on or before **October 13, 2021**. Any response will be considered by another judge of this court without the participation of Judge Groh.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Cheryl Dean Riley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Cheryl" being the most prominent.

Cheryl Dean Riley,  
Clerk of Court